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Letter dated 19 February 2014 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith a note verbale dated 5 February 2014 from the Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would bring the present note verbale to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **BAN** Ki-moon

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Annex

[Original: French]

The Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to refer to Security Council resolution 2127 (2013) concerning the situation in the Central African Republic.

Pursuant to paragraph 50 of the resolution, the Permanent Mission of France transmits herewith a report on the operational activities of the French force Sangaris deployed in the Central African Republic, along with a table of the joint operations undertaken with the African-led International Support Mission in the Central African Republic (MISCA). The Permanent Mission would be grateful if the Secretary-General would bring these documents to the attention of the Security Council.

The Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations takes this opportunity to convey to the Secretary-General the assurances of its highest consideration.

Enclosure

Operation Sangaris
Support provided to the African-led International Support Mission in the Central African Republic in the discharge of its mandate

5 February 2014

1. Basis of the support to the African-led International Support Mission in the Central African Republic

- Security Council resolution 2127 (2013) of 5 December 2013 authorizes the French forces in the Central African Republic, within the limits of their capacities and areas of deployment, and for a temporary period, to take all necessary measures to support the African-led International Support Mission in the Central African Republic (MISCA) in the discharge of its mandate.

2. Generic actions undertaken by the Sangaris force

- When faced with situations of abuse and human rights violations, the Sangaris force takes a firm stand. French actions during these operations are guided by respect for human rights and international conventions. The instructions to the French troops are quite clear: intervene as quickly as possible to end the abuse.

- In the implementation of confidence-building measures, since 9 December 2013, the Sangaris force has been supporting MISCA by enforcing and overseeing measures for the disarming and barracking of armed groups in its areas of deployment. On 7 December 2013, all armed elements in Bangui and Bossangoa were given an ultimatum designed to ensure that individuals who are not members of the Central African police force or gendarmerie cease bearing arms in the city. As of 9 December 2013, the ultimatum required that all individuals who are not members of these forces:

  Be prohibited from bearing arms; or

  Continue bearing arms but be barracked one of the predetermined sites.

  If necessary, and only in case of non-compliance with the two preceding measures, these individuals would be disarmed impartially.

  MISCA and the Sangaris force have therefore contributed to the barracking of former Seleka elements at four sites located in Bangui, thereby limiting abuses. Since December 2013, they have seized nearly 700 weapons by disarming former Seleka elements and anti-Balaka elements.

- These actions have been carried out mainly in Bangui, but the Sangaris force has expanded its area control actions by carrying out patrol missions in the regions of Bossangoa and Bozoum. During these missions, the Sangaris force intervenes to prevent or put an end to any abuse it witnesses by firing warning shots or taking other actions.

- The Sangaris force also supports MISCA in protecting the people on a daily basis, not only in Bangui, but also in the regions, including Boali, Mbaïki, Bossangoa and Sibut, where the French forces join with MISCA to prevent abuses and even use force to put an end to them.

- Access to humanitarian aid is also facilitated by the joint and continuous actions of the Sangaris force and MISCA.

3. Manifestation of the support to the African-led International Support Mission in the Central African Republic

- Ten French officers and one officer who is an adviser to the commander of MISCA are integrated into the senior leadership of MISCA.
- In Bangui, two tactical liaison detachments coordinate joint missions with Burundian and Rwandan battalions.
- On a daily basis, support to MISCA is outlined by the unit restructuring, command organization and planning and operations adviser. Military information is shared between the leaderships of the two forces.
- The French forces and MISCA commanders speak with one voice with the Transition Authorities on a regular basis in order to coordinate their joint actions.
- Patrols and operations are also planned and executed together, on a daily basis, whether in Bangui, or in Bossangoa, or on the main supply road between the capital and the border with Cameroon. On 1 February 2014, a joint MISCA-Sangaris operation was undertaken to recapture the town of Sibut, which had been held by former Seleka elements.
- Lastly, the Sangaris force has provided medical support to MISCA: three people who had been shot were treated at the level 2 hospital established by France; the Sangaris force supplies MISCA with pharmaceutical products and supports MEDEVAC with utility helicopters during joint operations.

Ad hoc joint missions of the African-led International Support Mission for the Central African Republic and the Sangaris force

31 December 2013-1 January 2014	Operation Kameur	Disengagement of a convoy of the Daher Corporation escorted by the African-led International Support Mission for the Central African Republic (MISCA) on the Bossangoa-Bangui road blocked by former Seleka elements	2 MISCA pickup trucks/ 2 infantry sections
1-19 January 2014 This operation continued until 22 January 2014	Operation Vassako Operation Gounda	Accompanying of and cooperation with MISCA; area control and patrols conducted on foot and by vehicle for the Congolese unit in the fourth district and for the Burundians in the third district	Burundian unit: 15-30 troops (1 or 2 light vehicles) Congolese unit: 10-25 troops (2 or 3 light vehicles) French unit: 1 section of 30-40 troops (3 or 4 armoured command vehicles or all-terrain cargo vehicles 180)
Since 25 January 2014 and following a rearrangement of areas of action of the MISCA force, cooperation has been ongoing, but with Rwandan and Burundian units	Operation Gounda and Gounda II	Accompanying of and cooperation with MISCA following the departure of the transitional Head of State; securing of Bangui through area control and patrols conducted on foot and by vehicle for the Rwandan unit in the fourth district and for the Burundians in the third district	Burundian unit: 15-30 troops (1 or 2 light vehicles) Congolese unit: 10-25 troops (2 or 3 light vehicles) French unit: 1 section of 30-40 troops (3 or 4 armoured command vehicles or all-terrain cargo vehicles 180)
Since 17 January 2014	Operation Godovo	Securing of the main supply road: freeing up of the supply road and restoring security in the area between Yaloke and Boali	1 Congolese section/ 4 infantry sections/armoured
14-20 January 2014	Operation Lato	Protection of the authorities in Bangui	1 MISCA group/1 Sangaris group/1 light vehicle
27 January 2014	Operation Mbomou	Securing of the Bouar landing strip by MISCA during reconnaissance by the Sangaris force	1 Cameroonian section

27 January 2014	Operation Niori	Reception of the supply convoy from Cameroon escorted by Rwandan troops of MISCA	3 Rwandan sections/ 4 Sangaris sections
28 January 2014	Operation Kadei	Disarming of the Kassaï camp	1 Rwandan company / 1 Congolese company/ 4 Sangaris sections/ 2 platoons
31 January-4 February 2014	Operation Ounam	Area control over the region of Mbaïki so that they can be relieved from 4 February 2014	1 Sangaris inter-arm sub-battle group — 1 Congolese section
31 January 2014-1 February 2014	Operation Goumbiri	Recapture of Sibut and installation of two MISCA companies	1 Sangaris combined arms battle group in support 2 companies (1 Rwandan company/1 Congolese company)
Since 5 December 2013	Protection of the MISCA-Sanagris site	Securing of the airport of debarkation	Resources of 2 or 3 vehicle sections
Since 5 December 2013	Intervention to protect the airport	Quick-reaction force for airport of debarkation	Resources of 1 or 2 vehicle sections
10 December 2013-1 February 2014	Quick reaction force — MISCA/ Sangaris-Operation Ama escort	Supporting the evacuation of nationals of different African countries with Sangaris escort to the civilian airport	1 section with pickup truck
Ongoing 15-30 December 2013 9-12 January 2014	Mandatory points of passage on main supply road Operation Diangara of 19-30 December 2013	Securing of areas on the ground to allow for the safe passage of aid; protection of Sangaris facilities (helicopter landing zone /forward area refuel point)	1-3 sections on foot/ 1 or 2 pickup trucks
10 December 2013	Site protection	Formed Police Unit intervenes at airport of debarkation (demonstrations, problems on the roads)	1 or 2 Formed Police Units with crowd control capabilities